

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 02469 091043Z

ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2802

S E C R E T LOME 2469

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT SHUM TO

SUBJ: MURDER MOST FOUL-CONTINUED

REF: LOME 2382

1. IN THE REFERENCE EMBASSY REPORTED THE MURDERS OF TWO ARMY OFFICERS AND NOTED VARIOUS THEORIES ABOUT THE DEATHS INCLUDING SUSPICION THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. A LACK OF PRESIDENTIAL MOTIVE FOR THE MURDERS WAS POINTED OUT.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN OBTAINED WHICH MAKES THIS ALREADY BIZARRE CASE EVEN MORE COMPLICATED. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, TWO NORTHERN ARMY OFFICERS HAD BEEN PLACED ON GUARD DUTY IN THE CORRIDOR LEADING TO THE HOSPITAL ROOM OF CAPTAIN ESSAO. EYADEMA HAD PERSONALLY ORDERED THEM TO BE STATIONED THERE. TWO MEN DRESSED AS DOCTORS AND WAERING HOSPITAL MASKS APPROACHED THE GUARDS THE NIGHT OF ESSAO'S MURDER WITH A "PATIENT" ON A LITTER. THE PATIENT'S" FACE WAS COVERED AND HE WAS CONTORTED WITH APIN. THE "DOCTORS" DEMANDED THAT THEY BE GIVEN ACCESS TO THE CORRIDOR IN ORDER TO TAKE THE "PATIENT" WHEREVER THEY WERE GOING. THE GUARDS LET THEM DO SO. THE THREE ASSASSINS THEN SLIPPED INTO ESSAO'S

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ROOM AND ONE OF THEM SHOT HIM WITH A SILENCED PISTOL. THE GUARDS, MEANWHILE, HEARD THE MUFFLED SHOTS AND WHEN THE THREE ASSASSINS EMERGED FROM THE ROOM CAME TOWARDS THEM. ONE OF THE GUARDS RAN INTO THE ROOM AND DISCOVERED THAT ESSAO WAS DEAD. IN THE MEANTIME THE ASSASSINS BEGAN RUNNING AWAY FROM THE OTHER GUARD. THE GUARD SHOUTED "AUX VOLEURS." THE ASSASSIN WITH THE WEAPON STOPPED,

TURNED AROUND, DREW THE WEAPON AND SAID TO THE GUARD
"I AM NOT A THIEF." AT THIS POINT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT
IN THE HOSPITAL. LINGERING SUSPICION EXISTS THAT SOMEONE
IN AUTHORITY ARRANGED TO HAVE THE LIGHTS GO OFF AT
THAT POINT. HOWEVER, LOME WAS EXPERIENCING FREQUENT ELECTRICITY
FAILURES IN THIS PERIOD (WHICH STILL CONTINUE).

3. THE ASSASSINS SPOKE ONLY FRENCH AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE
FOR THE GUARDS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY CAME FROM THE
NORTH OR SOUTH. THE DEMEANOR OF THE ASSASSINS AND THE
INTELLIGENCE AND VERVE WITH WHICH THEY BROUGHT OFF THEIR
MASQUERADE AND THE MURDER HAVE CONVINCED TOGOLESE POLICE
OFFICIALS THAT WHOEVER THEY WERE THEY WERE OF SUPERIOR
INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY. WHILE SUSPICION OF EYADEMA
PERSISTS, THE NATURE OF THE KILLING MAKES IT APPEAR
EXCESSIVELY COMPLICATED FOR THE PRESIDENT TO HAVE
ARRANGED.

4. ANOTHER PUZZLING ELEMENT HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE
SITUATION ALSO BY A REPORT THAT A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
SECURITY ORGANIZATION HAD SURPRISED CAPTAIN ESSAO AND A
MASTER SERGEANT TALKING SOME TIME AGO. THE TWO HAD ALLEGEDLY
BEEN PLOTTING AGAINST PRESIDENT EYADEMA. THE MEMBER OF
THE PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY ORGANIZATION ARRESTED THE MASTER
SERGEANT AND PUT HIM IN A PRISON IN THE PORT AREA. WHEN
THE PRESIDENT FOUND OUT ABOUT THE ARREST HE CONFRONTED
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HIS STAFF MEMBER WITH THE INFORMATION AND DEMANDED TO
KNOW WHY HE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED. THIS PERSON COULD MAKE
NO ADEQUATE RESPONSE AND WAS EXILED TO THE NORTH WHERE
HE REMAINS. FYI: IN LOME 1386 THE EMBASSY REPORTED AN
ALLEGED PLOT TO WIRE THE PRESIDENT'S CAR TO EXPLODE.
THE PLOT IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CONCOCTED BY SERGEANTS
OR WARRANT OFFICERS.

5. COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION IS REPORTED WITH A VIEW
TO STAYING ON TOP OF THIS MYSTERY. IT IS CLEAR THAT A
COMPLEX SITUATION EXISTS IN WHICH HIGH STAKES, INCLUDING
DEATH, ARE AT ISSUE. PALMER

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NNN

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